

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15, 17, 21 and 27-28, and amend claims 16 and 25 to read as follows (with proposed insertions underlined and proposed deletions with ~~strikethrough~~.)

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)

16. (Amended) A system of flexibly ~~securing~~ secured adjacent mat panels comprising:

two or more adjacent mat panels, each panel having a plurality of holes
~~forming holes~~ near adjacent mat panel ~~the edges of said adjacent of mat panels~~; and

~~inserting~~ a connector for inserting into the said holes of adjacent mat panels to flexibly secure said adjacent mat panels to each other, said connector having at least one two-prong ~~connecting~~ connector unit for ~~insertion~~ inserting into said holes, said two-prong connector unit comprising:

an upper member having a first end and a second end, wherein said upper member lies on the top of said mat panels and spans the distance between the holes in said adjacent mat panels;

a first lower prong member having an inner end and an outer end, wherein said first lower member is sized to fit within the hole in one of said adjacent mat panels;

a second lower prong member having an inner end and an outer end, wherein said second lower member is sized to fit within the hole in another of said adjacent mat panels;

a first joining member connecting said first end of said upper member to said inner end of said first lower prong member, wherein said first joining member is sized to fit within the hole in one of said adjacent mat panels;

a second joining member connecting said second end of said upper member to said inner end of said second lower prong member, wherein said second joining member is sized to fit within the hole in another of said adjacent mat panels;
and

wherein said upper member is substantially parallel to said first lower prong member and to said second lower prong member;

wherein at least one two-prong connector unit is joined in parallel to another two-prong connector unit by at least one spanning member that connects said upper members of each of said two-prong connector units; and